





Division I

Section I

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[No. 6.

ANNUAL MESSAGE OF PRESIDENT ROBERTS.

Gentlemen of the Senate and of the House of Representatives:

The annual meeting of the National Legislature is always an interesting event; and it affords me very sincere pleasure to meet on this occasion the constitutional representatives of the people, fresh from their constituents of the several counties of the Republic, to take counsel together for the common good. On your assembling at this interesting juncture to perform the high and important trusts which the people have confided to you, of legislating for the general welfare, it gives me great pleasure to congratulate you on the present favorable condition of our common country.

GRATITUDE FOR NATIONAL PROSPERITY.

When the representatives of the people are assembled to deliberate upon the state of the country, our just attentions are first drawn to those pleasing considerations which mark the goodness of that Being from whose favor they flow, and the large measure of thankfulness we owe to His bounty. We have great reason for renewed expression of devout gratitude to the Giver of all good for His benign protection through the vicissitudes of another year. Our country presents on every side the evidences of that continued favor of Him under whose auspices it has gradually progressed from its earliest infancy. We are happily blessed with domestic tranquillity and all the elements of national prosperity. A kind Providence has favored us with healthful seasons and abundant harvests. He has sustained us at peace with our aboriginal neighbors, and has preserved us in the quiet possession of civil and religious liberty. The agricultural development of the country is progressing encouragingly; and the public credit has attained a confidence particularly gratifying. In a word, a gracious Providence has crowned the year with His goodness, imposing on us no other conditions than those of improving, for our own happiness, the blessings bestowed by His hands. For blessings so numerous

and important, it is our duty to unite in grateful acknowledgments to that omnipotent Being from whom they are derived, and in unceasing prayer that He will endow us with virtue and strength to maintain and hand them down, in their utmost purity, to our latest posterity.

The view which I have now to present to you of our public affairs—foreign and domestic—realizes, I think, the most sanguine anticipations which have been entertained of national prosperity. In making this remark, however, I do not mean to be understood to imply that unvaried prosperity is to be seen in every interest of our country, or that every object of national concern is satisfactorily advancing. In the progress of a nation, it is not surprising that pressures on certain public interests should be more or less felt in the changes incident to and the uncertainty ever connected with all human affairs.

As in many other countries, so in Liberia, the need of adequate funds unfortunately retards the progress of many of those important national improvements which are necessary to the public convenience, and such also as are essential to the speedy development of the rich mineral and other resources of our country.

INCREASE OF PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

It is a cause of regret, that, for the reason above alluded to, the progress which has been made during the year in the erection and repairs of public buildings in the several counties—to which the attention of the Legislature was invited in my last annual message—has not advanced to the extent required for the public necessities. I am glad to state, however, that the Secretary of the Treasury is now negotiating for buildings in the county of Grand Bassa which, with a comparatively small additional outlay, will afford to that county all the office and other necessary building accommodation for the public requirements.

ROADS TO TRADING DISTRICTS.

For many years the public mind has been impressed with the importance of constructing roads to the rich trading districts of our interior; but hitherto the Government, in consequence of the pressure upon its finances, has not been in a condition to undertake works of this description to any considerable extent. I may be permitted, however, on this occasion to invite your attention to this subject, in the hope that you may find it practicable, at your present session to contribute to an object so intimately connected with the national welfare. By thus facilitating intercourse between our civilized communities and the native tribes of the interior, we shall be contrib-

uting greatly to the cultivation and extension of a vastly profitable trade, which will carry with it civilizing influences that cannot fail to produce gratifying results upon the social and moral condition of those people.

EXPLORATION OF INTERIOR REGIONS.

I would also recommend to the favorable consideration of the Legislature another object which appears to me manifestly important to the national interests. I allude to the desirableness of providing for a careful survey and exploration of the interior regions of our country; and more especially the examination of certain localities to which attention has been drawn, in the belief that they contain rich mineral deposits that may be turned to good account in improving the national resources. It can scarcely be supposed that a few thousand dollars judiciously employed in such researches would fail to produce valuable results.

VOLCANIC ERUPTION IN GRAND BASSA COUNTY.

Conformably with a resolution of the Legislature, adopted at the last session, authorizing the examination of a volcanic phenomenon reported to have occurred in Grand Bassa county during the past year, a small exploring party, under the command of Major J. W. Powell, was organized at Edina, in March last, and proceeded to the place of the eruption—lying in an easterly direction, distant about sixty miles. After a fatiguing march of two days from Hartford, on the St. John's river, to which place the party had assembled in boats and canoes, the site of the volcanic disturbance was reached, situate between two ranges of hills of varied elevations, separated by a small stream of excellent water, running southward. The eruption had occurred at the westerly base of one of these hills of the eastern range, with an abrupt elevation of about four hundred feet. The disturbed earth embraced an area of about fifteen acres, extending along the side of the hill, inclining upward in a northwesterly direction, oval shape, with a centre width of one hundred and fifty yards. There was no means of ascertaining whether the whole rupture was simultaneous, or was produced at long or short intervals. The natives residing in the vicinity—two or three miles removed—report that rumbling sounds occurred at intervals, and smoke was observed to issue from the hills for several weeks before they ventured to visit the spot. The conclusion, therefore, may be correct, that the disturbance commenced at a point near the little stream of water, and proceeded along the slope of the hill at intervening periods. The earth and trees within the space disturbed were evidently thrown up to great elevations. Large

trees with charred trunks and branches, were found buried several feet below the surface; and the depression of the earth at some points, occasioned by the disturbance, reached from ten to twenty feet. An examination as thorough as practicable was made of the erupted parts and their surroundings. Nothing could be arrived at as to the cause of the combustion; nor was any other discovery of importance made, excepting that about half way up the eastern edge of the eruption was discovered a large deposit of chalk and magnesia, and on the summit of the hill large masses of white marble.

Having completed the examination at this point, it was determined to make a circuit in a southeasterly direction towards the Gee, commonly called the Finley mountains. Two of these mountains or hills, were crossed, the last presenting an elevation of perhaps a thousand feet, and its base washed by the waters of the St. John's river; thence a westerly course was followed along the banks of the river, fifteen or twenty miles, to an uninhabited island, which was visited and found to contain about one hundred and fifty acres of excellent land, and covered with flourishing palm trees. On the eastern end of this island was discovered a bed of fine rock crystals, and specimens of very rich iron ore; thence the party proceeded in a northwesterly direction, performing a considerable circuit of the country, making excavations and collecting mineral specimens at such points as presented indications of valuable deposits, returning to Hartford on the afternoon of the fourteenth day, having traversed a country, heavily wooded throughout, well watered, and admirably adapted to agricultural purposes. And it affords me great pleasure to remark here, that the officers and men composing the party seemed, one and all, to be animated by a patriotic desire to advance the interests of the country by discoveries which they hoped might prove valuable auxiliaries to the national welfare; in this spirit each discharged cheerfully the duties required of him.

I may also be permitted to state in this connection, that J. L. Crusoe, Esq., influenced by a like commendable spirit, accompanied the party—without pecuniary consideration—and by his advice and counsel, derived from his knowledge of the country and long acquaintance with many of the inhabitants of the district visited, rendered important service. And I may further state, for the information of the Legislature, that the specimens thus collected were forwarded to England and submitted to the inspection of a competent geologist, who found among them rich copper ore, lead, and silver; and one or two specimens which he says contain strong indications of the presence of gold in the vicinity whence they were taken,

all of which I have reason to believe may be turned to good account. I hope the subject will receive proper attention.

NORTHWESTERN BOUNDARY LINE.

In adverting to our relations with foreign powers, which are always an object of the highest importance, I have peculiar satisfaction in remarking that they have undergone no unfavorable change, and the opportunities to improve them have been cultivated with anxious and unremitting attention; and I am gratified in stating that these efforts have not been without favorable results.

In compliance with resolutions adopted by the Legislature in January last, authorizing an official visit abroad for the purpose of settling, if practicable, on satisfactory terms, the question relating to our Northwest boundary line, and the adjustment of other important matters touching the interests of the Republic, I proceeded to England with as little delay thereafter as circumstances would permit, and immediately placed myself in communication with Her Majesty's Government. I was received most courteously by Earl Granville, Her Majesty's principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and discussed with his lordship fully and freely the several international subjects with which I had been charged. With me the immediate settlement of the question relating to our Northwest boundary formed the first and most important consideration; and this I urged upon every ground of principle and justice that occurred to me. But while I have reason to believe that Earl Granville was favorably impressed by the arguments advanced in favor of an immediate settlement of the question, his lordship informed me that "Her Majesty's Government felt themselves precluded from departing from the arrangement come to in 1871 for settling the Liberian Boundary Question;" and his lordship added the assurance that "it was from no want of friendly feeling towards the Government of Liberia or of interest in the welfare of the Republic, that a decision adverse to the wishes of the Liberian Government was come to;" and that "having again attentively considered the question, Her Majesty's Government would not feel themselves justified in acquiescing in the territorial claims put forward by Liberia without a preliminary inquiry into the subject on the Coast."

I scarcely need remind the Legislature that the arrangement referred to as having been concluded in 1871, provides for the appointment of a joint commission, consisting of two British and two Liberian commissioners, to investigate on the spot the disputed claims of Liberia, and to entertain all and

any evidence that the native chiefs or other claimants may desire to submit to them.

This Government has steadily resisted the idea of allowing the testimony of the native chiefs to be admitted as evidence against the validity of title deeds which they themselves or their predecessors had solemnly executed. And had not this course of admitting the testimony of the chiefs been insisted upon by the British Commissioners at the Joint Commission which met in 1863, for the purpose of terminating this difficulty, the whole question would doubtlessly have been satisfactorily arranged at that time.

The very unjust disadvantage to which Liberia would be exposed by a course so unusual was brought to the attention of Her Majesty's Government; and it was distinctly enunciated that Liberia had better abandon altogether her claim to these territories than to submit to a proceeding that would inevitably involve the Republic in disputes and difficulties in other quarters that would prove most embarrassing to the future welfare of the country. Earl Granville, however, suggests that the Liberian Government will give effect to the arrangement of 1871; which, if acceded to by the Legislature, I have good grounds for inferring will be impartially carried out.

SEIZURES IN THE MANNAH TERRITORY.

With regard to the bonds of indemnity, executed by this Government for claims of British subjects arising out of the seizures made in the Mannah territory in 1869, I have to state that I availed myself of the opportunity to submit to Earl Granville the fact—that the Government of Liberia had good grounds for believing that the amount claimed by said British subjects was greatly in excess of the actual value of the merchandise seized; and which being the case, the Liberian Government indulged the hope that his lordship would take the subject into favorable consideration, and, if practicable, afford the Republic equitable relief in regard to said bonds. It was ascertained that the bonds had not been transmitted to the Home Government, but remained in the possession of the Administrator of the British African Settlements at Sierra Leone. In this circumstance it was concluded to transfer the settlement of these bonds to the Administrator at Sierra Leone; and that officer was furnished with instructions on the subject, and authorized to arrange their settlement and grant a full acquittance in regard to them on the part of Her Majesty's Government. And it affords me pleasure to remark that I have no reason to doubt that, in the adjustment of these bonds, his Excellency the Governor of Sierra Leone, will apply the

principles of strict justice in determining the actual liability of this Government.

CONTRAVENTION OF NAVIGATION LAWS.

In the matter of complaint against British ship masters for contravening the navigation laws of the Republic, especially the commanders in charge of the African steam packets, in touching at places on the Liberian Coast not open to trade, and there embarking and disembarking goods and passengers to the prejudice of the public revenues, and also obstructing the means of acquiring the statistical information respecting trade and travel which the Government ought to possess; and more especially the embarking of native laborers at these places for service abroad, contrary to established regulations of the Government;—Earl Granville remarks, “It must rest with the Liberian Government to take such steps as may be necessary for enforcing their municipal law by appointing proper authorities on the Coast, who would see that communication with vessels is not allowed except at places open to trade.” And in a subsequent letter his lordship adds, “I will not fail to point out to the companies to which the packets belong the irregularities complained of, with the view to prevent a recurrence of them.”

The correspondence relating to these subjects will be laid before you, and it will remain with the Legislature to take such action in regard to them as in their judgment may be deemed necessary.

CARGO OF THE STEAMSHIP YORUBA.

I may add here that it was a cause of very deep regret and not a little embarrassing, that during the progress of this correspondence reports reached England seriously complaining of the conduct of Government officials at Harper, Cape Palmas, in respect to their action in reference to the cargo of the steamship “Yoruba,” wrecked at that port in May last. But while I had not the information at hand which would enable me to disprove the charges set forth, I did not hesitate to advance my belief that, if in any wise true, the facts alleged had been greatly exaggerated. Whereupon I assured Her Majesty’s Government that the Government of Liberia would institute a rigid investigation of these matters, with a view of ascertaining the actual facts in the case. I therefore beg to suggest to the Legislature the propriety of authorizing the appointment of a commission to inquire into all the facts and circumstances relating to the conduct of said officials in dealing with the aforesaid cargo.

As yet I have received but little certain information in re-

gard to the doings of our officials at Harper respecting the property saved from the aforesaid wrecked steamer; and, though I have still reason to believe that the reports which have gone abroad are greatly exaggerated, the question is deeply interesting to the national character, and, as such, demands the prompt attention of the Legislature.

RELATIONS WITH GREAT BRITAIN.

I may not omit to mention that, while our intercourse with the British Foreign Office was kind and friendly, several acts of the Liberian Government were adverted to as calculated to impress Her Majesty's Government unfortunately, and induce the belief that their friendship was not suitably appreciated. Some of these could be met only by the reminder that many of the best statesmen of the world had, from error in judgment, committed very gross blunders; and that in whatever the Liberian authorities may have given just cause of complaint, it was not in consequence of a want of proper appreciation, or the absence of a firm desire to cultivate the most friendly relations with Her Majesty's Government, but simply the result of a mistaken conviction of right, and of what was regarded an official duty. We may hope, however, that ancient friendly relations have been restored, which I trust will be perpetuated.

THE ENGLISH LOAN.

With respect to the matters of the seven per cent. loan, I regret that, though they engaged my earnest attention, I am not able to inform the Legislature of their final adjustment. On my arrival in England, I found that our agents in London, Consul General Jackson, and Alfred Edwards, Esq., had with great zeal and ability exerted themselves to maintain the interests of the Republic as relating to the loan; and that our solicitors, Messrs. Tilleard, Godden, and Holme, had employed their best legal talent in prosecuting the cause in chancery which had been instituted against David Chinery and others, for alleged wrongs practiced upon this Government in connection with said loan.

These chancery proceedings had been greatly protracted, when defendants suggested a compromise, which our agents were disposed to consider; but to conclude a compromise involved perplexities which the agent of the Government found difficult to overcome; and such was the state of these matters on my arrival in London.

Having conferred with our agents and solicitors on the subject, it was deemed advisable, for certain cogent reasons, that a suitable compromise should be agreed to; and entertaining

the conviction that the interest of the Government would be materially served by a proper arrangement of the kind, I cooperated with our agents and solicitors in negotiating with certain of the parties such a compromise as appeared to me might be acceptable to the Legislature. It was a work of great delicacy, and attended with no little trouble and perplexity in arranging several points of controversy raised on both sides.

Finally an agreement was executed, conditioned on the passage by the Legislature of an act supplementary to the acts approved respectively January 26th, 1870, and January 29th, 1872. The objects of this supplementary act are: first, to secure to bond-holders, who may have *bona fide* subscribed to the said loan, the rights accorded to them under the provisions contained in the general bond and the special bonds dated August 1st, 1871; second, that the excise tax, mentioned in the 6th section of the act of 1870, shall be reserved as a sinking fund, to be applied from time to time in paying off the principal of the loan in half yearly drawings, so that the amounts of the said half yearly drawings shall be £2,000, to be made after the first drawing in the manner and at the same times mentioned in the general bond; and, third, to confirm the agreement of June 18th, 1873, as regards dismissing the suit in chancery in respect to certain of the defendants, each party paying his own costs.

On the official notification of the passage of this act, Messrs. Holderness, Nott & Co. agree to reimburse the Government to the amount of £5,000, to be paid by them in half yearly instalments of £1,000 each, to be applied towards the discharge of the half yearly drawings; and an additional £1,000 cash in discharge of costs incurred by Government in legal proceedings; and they further agree to deposit £11,000 to secure £10,500, the balance of £21,000 which was to have been deposited to secure three years interest on said loan; and that the said £10,500 shall bear interest from August 1st, 1873, at 3 per cent. per annum, for the benefit of the Republic. As a guarantee to secure the fulfillment of the above recited stipulations, Messrs. Holderness, Nott & Co. have deposited in the hands of Messrs. Glyn, Mills, Currie & Co., bankers, bonds to the value of £13,000.

The aforesaid agreement also stipulates that "all the moneys in court be paid out to the attorneys of the Republic." But on application to the court by our solicitors, in conformity therewith, Mr. E. F. Roye opposed the motion, on the alleged grounds that the Government of Liberia is largely indebted to his late father for advances of money made to the Government, which he would be able to prove by the books of the Republic; and that his costs in the case pending should be

secured by retaining in court a suitable amount of the money applied for. Upon this, the Vice Chancellor made an order directing the payment of £6,392s. 15*d.*, in addition to the amount of £10,000 previously paid out of court, to the agents of the Republic, leaving still in court £2,000, in addition to the amounts remaining open with Roye's administrator and John N. Lewis.

The agreement and draft of the supplementary act above referred to, with a statement of our solicitors as to the action taken by them, and the proceedings had in the matter of the loan, will be laid before the Legislature; also an exhibit, drawn up by the agents of the Republic, showing the manner in which the moneys paid out of court have been disbursed or otherwise disposed of.

You will find among the items to the debit of the Government in said statement, an amount ordered by the Legislature to be paid to the General Post Office, London, for postage account, and an amount so ordered to be paid to Messrs. Coates & Co., for account of the late G. Ralston, Esq. A small balance, found to be due to Mr. Harriot on a draft drawn by Government on Rev. Wm. McLain, I directed to be paid. The other items are sufficiently explained.

In compliance with the fourth requisition of the resolution of the Legislature, January 15th, 1873, authorizing the President to make an official visit abroad for purposes therein stated, the President is requested, after paying certain claims against the Government out of the loan, to bring the remainder to Liberia, I therefore, on my return home, brought with me six thousand pounds sterling, leaving a small balance, as the statement shows, to meet any emergency or contingency that may arise. Besides this sum, the agents placed in my hands three hundred pounds; a part of which was expended in England for account of the Government, and the remainder to be paid to the Secretary of the Treasury.

I trust, gentlemen, you will indulge me in the earnest recommendation that you will not allow, except in case of absolute necessity, any portion of the said six thousand pounds to be applied to any other purpose than to some permanent national improvement tending to the development of the country, with a view to increasing the convenience of the people and the resources of the State.

The injurious effect upon the interests of the Republic, occasioned by the negotiation of this loan, impress me more and more with sorrowful regrets and indignant feelings of reproach against the parties who, by culpable ambition and unblushing dishonesty, have brought upon the country so many depressing evils. It has not only involved the country in a heavy foreign debt without a recompense scarcely worth noting; but events

show that friendly Governments, as well as benevolent individuals abroad, who from the beginning have sympathized with Liberia in her struggles, and have always been ready to extend to her material aid in carrying out the objects of her mission on this barbarious Coast, seem now to be impressed with the idea that this loan has placed Liberia in a position above the necessity of further pecuniary assistance; whereas, on the contrary, the burden imposed by the loan has placed the Government under monetary obligations and embarrassments never before more depressing. And it is earnestly to be hoped that a correct view of the present financial condition of Liberia may be so impressed upon our friends abroad, as that they will not abate their sympathy or kind liberality in aiding the efforts of this Government to advance the cause of humanity and religion among the idolatrous tribes of this heathen land.

APPLICATIONS INVOLVING CONCESSIONS.

In compliance with a wish of the Legislature, I endeavored while in England to procure the services of a competent geologist or mining engineer to visit Liberia for the purpose of conducting systematic explorations and mineral researches through the country. And in answer to an advertisement of Consul General Jackson, several persons applied to engage; but in each case, where the applicant appeared competent to the service required, the demand for outfit and salary was greater than was deemed desirable to accept. Meanwhile an agreement was concluded, subject to the approval of the Legislature, with certain parties in London, granting to them the right to explore the country, at their own expense, for the purpose of discovering mineral deposits, and to have the right to work the same, or any mines which they may claim to discover; and also the privilege of constructing railways, tramways, and other works incidental to working said mines—the concessionaires, on their part, to pay to the Government on the net profit derived by them, after deducting six per cent. on capital account, a fixed per centage on the respective minerals worked. I will cause to be laid before the Legislature said agreement, and it will rest with you to determine whether the national interest is likely to be served by its acceptance.

I shall take occasion, at an early day, to lay before the Legislature several applications which have been addressed to me for certain concessions by this Government: first, for establishing a bank in Liberia; second, for landing on our Coast submarine cables to connect the Republic with the nearest telegraph station northward; and, third, for running a line of steamers between the Republic and England.

The terms of these proposals have not been discussed; and while it is evident that some of the stipulations are certainly inadmissible, I have thought it proper to submit them to the consideration of the Legislature, with the request—if the objects are desirable, as I think they are—that they will suggest such modifications as in their judgment might be acceptable on both sides. The gentleman submitting these applications, I have reason to believe, is backed by men of capital and influence who are quite prepared to carry out the objects stated on terms of mutual advantage.

PURCHASE OF A REVENUE CUTTER.

I am gratified in being able to inform the Legislature of the purchase of a small vessel in England for the use of the Government in maintaining regular communication between the several counties of the Republic, and for protecting the revenue and enforcing the laws regulating trade and intercourse along our Coast. She is a new vessel, seventy-nine tons burthen, and well adapted to the service for which she is designed. Just before leaving England application was made, through Consul-General Jackson, to Her Majesty's Government to place on said vessel a suitable gun to complete her efficiency. The last information I have is to the effect that an officer from the Admiralty would be directed to visit the vessel to ascertain, I presume, the description of gun that would be suited to her.

THE NATIONAL FINANCES.

By accounts which will be transmitted to the Legislature from the Treasury Department, you will probably be surprised to find that the national revenues for the year ending the 30th of September last have not equalled those of the preceding year. Why this is so challenges inquiry. Nevertheless I am glad to state that the receipts were found sufficient to meet the current expenses of the Government, and also to enable the Secretary of the Treasury to discharge the interest and a large portion of the principal of outstanding claims against the Government in the hands of citizens. And but for the additional obligation imposed upon the Treasury by our foreign loan, I think we should have no reason to complain of the present condition of the public finances. As it is, however, there is no escaping this additional responsibility. And however reckless and blameable the conduct of those who contracted the loan, or those who, by speculation and fraud, so greatly reduced the amount contracted for, one thing is certain, the money was obtained on the faith of the Government, and I am satisfied that no patriotic citizen of the Republic would be willing that the faith and credit of the Government should be impaired. And as it devolves upon the Legislature to main-

tain, by suitable legislation, the honor of the country, I cannot allow myself to doubt that your united wisdom will devise the measures necessary to be adopted to meet this pressing pecuniary emergency. More than the present, there never was a time in the history of the Republic when the strictest economy should be observed in the public expenditures, nor when true patriotism should arouse the dormant sensibilities of the citizens of the Republic to active exertion, and a willingness to make personal sacrifices to advance the public good. Gentlemen, your constituents rely upon your wisdom and patriotism to inaugurate, at your present session, such a system of retrenchment in the public expenditures as the present financial condition of the country imperatively demands.

CLAIM OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT.

I beg to remind the Legislature that in the latter part of the year 1869, when certain native tribes in the neighborhood of Grand Cape Mount were in a threatening state of excitement, this Government obtained from the Government of the United States certain arms and other military equipments, stipulated to be paid for in three years. But almost immediately after the purchase, a new administration was inaugurated in Liberia; and in less than a twelve-month thereafter, we found ourselves involved in serious political troubles, and these evidently diverted the attention of the Government from the course which was proposed to be pursued in regard to this purchase. The three years, however, having expired, the United States Minister Resident and Consul General near this Republic, acting under instructions from his Government, in April last demanded a settlement of the claim. But we could make no other reply than a truthful representation of our inability to meet the demand, in consequence of the existing financial embarrassment of the Government, occasioned by causes stated; which was communicated by the Minister Resident to his Government. In a subsequent dispatch from the Minister, October last, we are informed that the President of the United States regards the circumstances presented as sufficient justification for the past delay in respect to the settlement of said claim; and that while the President is reluctant to urge immediate payment of the debt, he expects an unqualified recognition thereof by payment of the accrued interest thereon. I submit this subject to the early attention of the Legislature, with an earnest recommendation that they will take such action in relation thereto as, in their judgment, shall be found practicable or advisable.

Relying upon the kindly feeling of the United States towards Liberia, I confess I indulged the hope that our Government would be relieved by that of the United States from the

pecuniary obligation incurred by this purchase. Since the planting of the first American settlers on these shores, during the incumbency of President Monroe, who favored the enterprise, each successive Chief Magistrate of the United States has expressed a lively interest in the future of Liberia; and on many occasions have they manifested, by acts of kindness, their desire to advance her progress. I am aware that his Excellency, President Grant, is not indifferent to the welfare of this Republic; and were it an Executive prerogative to remit debts, I have reason to believe that President Grant would readily accord to Liberia a full discharge. But as I have stated, this case does not come within the purview of Executive powers; nevertheless there is a power in the United States competent to deal with it, and I opine equally interested in the prosperity of this offspring of American benevolence and enterprise—I mean the Congress of the United States—and I am fully persuaded that an appeal to Congress would not fail of its object.

SUBJECTS AGAIN RECOMMENDED.

Of the subjects recommended to the consideration of the Legislature at their last session, some were left unfinished and others seem not to have been reached in the order of business. As I am still impressed with the importance of legislative action in regard to some of these, I will simply invite your attention to what was said on that occasion in respect to them.

1st. In reference to the improvement of the native tribes within our limits; which is still an object of the highest importance to the speedy development of our country. In the early part of the present year an attempt was made to establish, near the head waters of the Messurado river, a large town into which to collect the scattered natives of that region. The chiefs were consulted, and readily accepted the plan suggested as promising results beneficial to the improvement of their people, and agreed to commence the work of reconstruction in a couple of months from the time at which they were convened; but though the natives generally seem favorable to the idea, it requiring an effort on their part to abandon their old homes and construct new buildings, no progress has been made in the proposed arrangement; and the Executive has no authority to bring to bear upon them the slightest pressure but that of persuasion.

2d. The present Judiciary system of the Republic appears to me open to improvement, and especially in those particulars suggested at the last session by the Attorney General. And I may here add that the compilation of the statutes of the Republic, also submitted at the last session, was not finally disposed of.

3d. I am still impressed with the desirableness of some modification in our present Militia system to increase its efficiency.

4th. The subject of the Centennial Exhibition to be held in the city of Philadelphia, Pa., U. S., in the summer of 1876, deserves your earliest attention. Since the last session of the Legislature, the Secretary of State has received, through our Consul General in the United States, a communication from the State Department of the United States, enclosing a copy of the proclamation by his Excellency, the President of the United States, announcing the time and place of holding the Exhibition, and a copy of the general regulations adopted by the Commissioners of the Exhibition, and asking the cooperation of this Government in the proposed celebration. By the general regulations, which the Secretary of State will submit to you, you will observe that a formal acceptance of the invitation to be represented is requested previous to March 4, 1874.

ANNUAL RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES.

With the report of the Secretary of the Treasury will be laid before you accounts of the receipts and expenditures of the last fiscal year, together with estimates of the appropriations necessary for the public service of the current year.

It is ascertained that from some unaccountable cause the revenue on imports and exports during the year which ended 30th September last, has not equaled, by twenty-seven thousand dollars, the revenue from the same sources the preceding year. While, from certain reasons, it was not expected that the imports of the past year would likely be equal to those of the preceding year, still the large difference has awakened apprehensions which require to be satisfied. Whether the officers of the customs have not been sufficiently diligent in the discharge of their respective duties, and of consequence very grievous frauds, by smuggling or otherwise, have been practised on the Government, is a question demanding solution. And I cannot too strongly press upon the attention of the Legislature the propriety of ascertaining, if practicable, the cause or causes which have lead to the difference above referred to; and if found to result from any defect in our present system of collecting and making returns of imports, or from the want of more stringent regulations to prevent smuggling, that the Legislature will apply such remedies as, in their judgment, shall be deemed necessary to correct any abuse found to exist prejudicial to the interests of the country.

REVISION OF THE TARIFF.

While canvassing the question to which I have just adverted, I would invite the attention of the Legislature to a review

of the present tariff of the Republic; imperfect in its ambiguity in several important particulars, and still more imperfect in its inequality in respect to many articles taxed. That the tariff needs radical revision appears to me fully manifest. But to adjust a tariff for the purposes of revenue requires much time and thought to place it upon an equitable basis; and it has occurred to me that the object can be better attained by the appointment of a committee to draft, during the recess of the Legislature, a suitable tariff act, to be presented at your next session for modification or approval.

THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT.

I cannot omit to mention that, in consequence of the limited revenues of the past year, the Secretary of the Treasury has been placed, on several occasions, under very embarrassing circumstances; but, in perusing his report and accounts, I doubt not you will find ample proof of the ability and successful exertions of that officer in conducting the duties of the Department during a period truly remarkable for its difficulties and peculiar perplexities. There is no department of the Government that requires a more efficient staff of officers than the Treasury Department. The duties of that department are complex and arduous, and—if conducted as they should be, and as the interest of the State demands—every facility, in the nature of assistance, should be provided; and especially a strict accountability should be insisted upon in the discharge of the duties required in the several branches of the department.

RELIANCE ON THE LEGISLATURE.

Reserving for future occasion in the course of the session whatever other communications may claim your attention, I close the present, by expressing my reliance, under the blessing of Divine Providence, on the judgment and patriotism which will guide your measures in the great council of the nation, at a period calling for inflexible exertion for the welfare of our country. I shall await, with encouraging hope, the result of your deliberations; assured that, with a due sense of the obligations you are under to your constituents, and of the high responsibilities weighing upon you as representatives of the whole people, you will give efficacy to the means committed to you for the common good. And may He who searches the hearts of the children of men prosper your exertions to secure all those blessings which are calculated to promote the highest welfare of our country, and the permanent happiness of our fellow citizens.

I have now, gentlemen, only to add the assurance, that whatever measures you may adopt, tending to the general good, shall have my hearty co-operation and faithful execution.

J. J. ROBERTS.

From the New Era, February 26.

AFFAIRS IN LIBERIA.

INAUGURATION OF MAYOR NELSON.—This interesting ceremony took place before the City Council, in the Hall of the House of Representatives, on the 26th instant. Among the guests were President Roberts, accompanied by Secretary Dennis and Attorney General Davis. The military escort, consisting of the New Port Volunteers, Lt. W. N. Williams in command, made, as usual, a creditable appearance. A procession, consisting of the Council and various officials, national and municipal, having been formed in front of the Representative Hall, the whole under the command of Lieut. Col. Anthony D. Williams, of the 1st Regiment, as marshal of the day, repaired to the residence of the Mayor elect. After receiving him they returned to the Representative Hall, where the oath of office was administered by Hon. James E. Moore, chairman of the City Council, after which his Honor delivered a brief inaugural. The procession was again formed, and marched to the Executive Mansion, where the President left the line, the Council and guests accompanying the Mayor to his residence, to enjoy the hospitalities of himself and lady. At half past 5 p. m. a large company of distinguished gentlemen sat to a sumptuous dinner in the beautiful garden adjoining the Mayor's residence, and so entertaining was the company, enchanting the speeches, and detainable the dinner, that they did not leave till 10 p. m.

THE ERA BEHIND TIME.—We owe the readers of the Era an apology for the tardiness of this issue, and we know that they are too charitable not to pardon us, when they shall have heard our excuse. At some former time we had occasion to remark that the Lord had so blessed us that we had never been sick abed in the past 18 years, and we almost implied that but few people need be sick unless they wanted to be. Well, the tables have rather turned. We are not quite sick as yet, but we have caught one of these little African wounds, which has at once knocked our understandings from beneath us, and the pains and torturing of doctoring have well nigh knocked our wits out of us. We are compelled to write what little we must say reclining on our elbow in bed. But we don't intend a lame foot shall kill us, if we can help it, nor shall we, like Lord Byron, be ashamed of it. This is our only apology.

THE SUPREME COURT.—We are pleased to be able to furnish our readers with the decisions of the Supreme Court of Liberia, which held its session in Monrovia last month. As far as we

are able to judge, we think the opinions are founded in justice, equity and law, and would not suffer greatly in comparison with decisions in similar cases of learned judges of other countries.

Case 1st. Jose B. Oliver vs. J. C. Dunbar, and Case 7, A. Woerman vs. J. Marshall, clearly demonstrate that this Court knows no distinction in justice growing out of nationality and complexion, but meets out justice with an even hand to all men irrespective of birthplace or origin. This is what we shall ever maintain.

SECRETARY OF STATE.—J. E. Moore, Esq., of the firm of G. Moore & Son, has been appointed by the President to the office of Secretary of State, in place of Hon. H. R. W. Johnson, resigned.

POSTMASTER AT MONROVIA.—J. T. Wiles, Esq., has been appointed to the office of Postmaster at Monrovia, in place of H. D. Brown, Esq.

AFRICAN COLONIZATION IN PITTSBURGH, PA.

At the First Presbyterian Church, last evening, the Rev. Dr. Orcutt, General Secretary of the American Colonization Society, delivered an interesting and instructive discourse on the "Christian Civilization of Africa." For a quarter of a century the reverend gentleman has been closely identified with the workings of the Society, and his continued study, as to the best means of extending the benefits of a Christian civilization to heathen countries, together with his close observation of the progress made by different efforts already put forth, pre-eminently fit him to give sound advice on such a topic, and combine to make his views of great weight.

The customary preliminary exercises were held, after which the reverend gentleman announced as his text the ninth verse of the eighty-sixth Psalm—"All nations whom Thou hast made shall come and worship before Thee, O Lord, and shall glorify Thy name." After some preliminary remarks, the speaker defined Christian civilization as a knowledge of religion, law, and letters. He followed with a full and lucid explanation of his definition, and proceeded to argue that this same civilization will eventually be extended to all the nations of the earth. All nations whom the Lord had made, meant that He was the universal Creator, and the prophet was foretelling that all people would eventually be Christianized and brought to know the Lord God, their creator and benefactor. The minister then gave in an interesting manner the history of the progress of Christianity, showing that its benign influences were first felt

in Asia, then in Europe, and finally in the heart of North America. The christianizing principle had traveled with its blessings in straight and direct line from east to west, and had been almost entirely confined to that belt of the earth known as the temperate zone. Geographically considered, Africa came next for these benefits, but had she received them? Efforts had been made to extend a Christian civilization to Africa's shores. The Roman Catholics, the Moravians, and the Missionary Societies of London, Edinburg, and Glasgow had put forth endeavors in this direction, but all had failed, in a large measure. All this failure was attributable to different reasons, the principal and most conspicuous of which are the climate and the hostility of the natives. The climate of Africa was not congenial to the Anglo-Saxon race. True, Dr. Livingstone and other explorers had been permitted in God's providence to explore the inland of Africa and to give the world a knowledge of the country. Yet, few white men could stand the malaria and heat of the climate. The hostility of the natives, too, was bitter; and their persecutions against the whites who came to teach them, was of the most relentless character. How, then, could Africa be civilized? How can the benign influences of Christianity be brought to bear upon the blacks? By means of the blacks.

The speaker then gave some interesting details of the history of Liberia, how the Government was formed, how carried on, and the success of the negroes' attempts at self-government, from which he thought that they were capable to govern themselves. He said that the colored emigrants to Liberia had been sent there by the Colonization Society, comparing the Society to a free bridge, over which they could pass. And they were willing, many of them eager, to go. This disposition the minister attributed in part to the principle of national congeniality, to that law or affinity of races which is manifest in the daily intercourse of blacks with whites. He then told of the effective services rendered and being rendered by those negroes who had reached Africa from a Christian land.—*Pittsburgh Daily Post, May 11th.*

THE LATE REV. JOHN N. MCLEOD, D. D.

We regret to have to announce the death of the Rev. John Neil McLeod, D. D., minister of the First Reformed Presbyterian church in New York city, who died suddenly of heart disease, at his residence, in Eighteenth street, Monday morning, April 27. In many organizations for the promotion of Christian truth and the alleviation of human woe, there will be a vacant chair which it will be difficult to fill with one so

wise in council and so indefatigable in work. Dr. McLeod was of immediate Scottish descent. His father, the Rev. Dr. Alexander McLeod, emigrated to this country from Mull, Argyllshire, Scotland, when about sixteen years of age, graduated at Union College, and was held in high honor in social and ecclesiastical circles. Dr. J. N. McLeod was born in New York city on the 11th of October, 1806, where also he received his early education. In 1826, he graduated at Columbia College. Two years later he was ordained. His first charge was at Galway, Schenectady county, New York, whence he removed, after two years, to New York city. He was then installed associate pastor with his father in the First Reformed church; and on the death of his father, in 1833, he became sole pastor. He was professor in the Theological Seminary in Philadelphia for twenty-five years, chairman of the Committee on Versions of the American Bible Society, and long a devoted friend of the American Colonization Society.

DEATH OF THE REV. DR. De WITT.

The Rev. Dr. Thomas DeWitt, for many years one of the most prominent and respected citizens of New York, died Monday, May 18, at his residence in East Ninth street. He was a leading Manager of the American Bible Society and the American Tract Society, and since 1862, a Vice President of the American Colonization Society. He was, until at the last annual meeting he declined re-election, President of the New York Historical Society, an honor to which his researches into the ecclesiastical antiquities of New York abundantly entitled him. Dr. DeWitt was born near Kingston, Ulster county, N. Y., September 13, 1791. After his graduation at Union College, he was one of the first small theological class that was taught by Dr. Livingstone at New Brunswick. At the age of twenty-one he began his pastoral work over the united churches of Hopewell and NewHackensack in Dutchess county, which he served in common for fourteen years. His removal to the Collegiate Church of New York took place in 1827. As the senior pastor of that Church he has now died in his eighty-third year, as much beloved and revered, as little spoken against or distrusted, as is any saint of God this side of heaven.

AFRICAN COLONIZATION—OBJECTIONS CONSIDERED.

BY THOMAS H. PEARNE, D. D.

No good cause has ever been advocated which has not encountered objections. This is equally true of the American Colonization Society as of other causes. To a few of these objections the attention of readers is invited.

I. "The wholesale removal of the freedmen from this country to Africa is both impracticable and undesirable." It was never seriously thought of, nor sought by the Colonization Society. The question of its desirableness or its practicability need not, therefore, be considered. Yet there are persons who think the purpose has been held. This idea may have arisen from statements made, many years ago, by Hon. Henry Clay, in which he showed that it was not an impossible, nor even an impracticable thing to remove *all the free people of color* to Africa. But this Society never seriously entertained such a purpose. Much less do they expect or wish, now, to remove all the colored people. The most they ever sought, in slavery times, was to remove such manumitted slaves as could not remain free in the State in which they had been slaves; and, besides these, to provide for conveying to Liberia such free colored persons as might wish to go there. So far as the former of these objects goes, their policy tended to promote emancipation. Many slaves were thus manumitted, who would not have been, had it not been that they could thus be provided with homes in a country where their freedom could be assured. But the whole history of the Society for more than half a century, including all its acts and utterances, forbids the belief that it ever did, or that it does now, contemplate the removal of all the colored people from the country. The whole number of emigrants sent to Africa by this Society from the beginning is fifteen thousand and forty-eight; an average of exactly two hundred and sixty-four in a year. The whole number of freedmen and of colored persons in the United States is, say, five millions. Their *annual increase* is, say, eighty thousand or ninety thousand. To imagine that the Society proposes to send all these millions to Africa, when the average of their sending *does not equal one quarter of one per cent. of the increase of these millions*, is so supremely absurd, that it seems like a waste of time to

even name the insanity of the conception. The founders and patrons of the American Colonization Society have never given this sort of proof that they are either demented or insane.

II. "The colored man has as much right to remain in this country as white men." Who denies it? Certainly not the friends of Colonization. This objection seems to assume that it is proposed to send men to Africa whether they want to go or not; in other words, that their consent is an immaterial factor in the case. This supposition as to the purposes of the Colonization Society is even more incredible than the former. The proposition to remove any number of persons, of any class or color, forcibly from the country, is so utterly abhorrent to all Americans that the man who would seriously propose it would be pronounced a fool or a madman. The voluntary applications for passage to Liberia numbered six hundred in a single month, last year. Their going is purely voluntary. No one is urged, nor even asked, to go. On the contrary, thousands who apply for passage have to be refused, simply because the Society lacks the means to send them. Nobody, so far as I know, questions the right of colored persons to remain in this country. But are there not those who would, if they could, deny them the right to go if they desired? No man, white or black, should be stopped from staying in this country, or from leaving it altogether. When freedmen are, for any reasons, drawn to go to Africa, to find fault with those who would assist them to go, is both unreasonable and selfish.

III. "The Colonization Society is working in the interest of caste—and adversely to the interests of the colored people." This is a very common form of objection to the Society; but it is founded on utter misconception. The great object sought by this organization is *the highest welfare of the African race*. In seeking this general object, the Society promotes the advantage of those immediately concerned. Those who go to Liberia are, in various ways, improved in their condition. Their subsistence is placed above question—almost beyond the necessity for exertion. They are thrown into circumstances where their Christian manhood is largely effective in moulding the manners and shaping the destiny of the natives of Africa; where every act and every word tells upon the great ultimate

end sought—the elevation and redemption of Africa. No reasonable mind, not warped by prejudice, can conceive that such an object is, in any sense, inimical to the freedmen; it is equally inconceivable that the methods by which this object is sought are open to the objection of being inspired by prejudice.

IV. It is objected: "In aiding freedmen to go to Liberia, the Colonization Society either sends those who are of no value here, and can be of little use there, or else aid, in sending emigrants, tends to destroy self-dependence and enterprise; and it ought, therefore, to be discontinued." The objection, in its twofold aspect, is entirely unfounded. Those who have gone to Liberia have, with God's blessing, builded well. That Republic is a monument of the wisdom of the Society's policy, showing both that those who have gone were not worthless material when sent, and that sending them *by charity* did not produce their degeneracy. This objection is a common one. Repeatedly have I heard it said, "Why not let emigration to Africa take its own course, and pay its own expenses, as other emigrations do?" To this several answers might be given. These freedmen deserve aid in view of what they have been, and of what they are. They deserve this for the sake of Africa; or, rather, Africa deserves this much at our hands, and indefinitely more. This objection could be applied to many other things with at least equal force. Thus: Why help poor young men to get an education? Would they not develop into sturdier manhood if left to their own resources? Why send missionaries to foreign lands? Why not leave this to the individual conscience and resources of those who have convictions of duty as to carrying the Gospel to the heathen? Why, for that matter, assist the freedmen in this country at all? Why spend, as the various churches are now doing, hundreds of thousands of dollars to educate the freedmen among us? If the objections lie against the Colonization Society's plan of helping colored persons to go to Africa and do a missionary work there, they lie also, and equally, against such an outlay of money and sympathy for the freedmen in our country. But the truth is, the objection is groundless. The charity of the Colonization Society, in aiding emigrants to Africa, is deserving not of censure and suspicion, but of approval and co-operation.

FOURTH OF JULY CONTRIBUTIONS.

It has long been the custom on the Sabbath nearest the **FOURTH OF JULY**, for Pastors and Congregations to show, by their prayers and charities for that cause which seeks to redeem Africa unto Christ, their grateful remembrance of God's providential goodness.

Over the great waters, in the very central regions of African barbarism, there is planted a Christian Republic of colored Americans, which is in treaty relationship with the leading nations of the earth. Along her six hundred miles of seaboard and over her extended interior territory, once the very habitations of cruelty, the Sabbath day is now marked by the sound of the church bells, and thousands of worshippers going in company to the houses of God. The adjoining country is wide open to these influences. President Roberts, in his recent Inaugural Address, gives the following message from a converted chieftain in Grand Bassa: "I want Liberia to help me. We want the Bible. I want a school opened. It is the desire of all my people as well as myself for the Gospel to be extended towards us, and schools to be opened among us to civilize and Christianize our children. Do send us aid; our doors stand open, our hearts are free and ready to receive instruction. Remember me and my people when you pray."

In this country, the tokens of Divine favor have been manifest. During the year which has passed, a number of emigrants have been sent as ministers of good to the degraded millions of their fatherland. The voluntary applications for passage of several thousand persons are now under consideration, a goodly number of whom are humble disciples of the Lord Jesus. To aid as many of these during the present year, the efforts of the American Colonization Society are steadily devoted.

It is therefore earnestly requested of all Pastors and Congregations that collections be made on the Sabbath succeeding the **FOURTH OF JULY**. As on that day the hearts of Christians shall rise to Heaven in thankfulness, O forget not, as ye have freely received, to freely give.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

The late message of President Roberts, which appears in the present REPOSITORY, shows the state of things in Liberia to be generally hopeful and encouraging. The finances have improved, a spirit of enterprise is developing, and solid progress marks many of the leading interests of the country. The President gives expression to the great concern which the people feel in the civilization and evangelization of the natives within the territorial limits of the Republic; and he also refers to other duties and facts, much to the credit of his character, as an enlightened and Christian ruler. Unquestionably Liberia is advancing.

[FOR THE AFRICAN REPOSITORY.]

THE MISSION FIELD IN AND AROUND LIBERIA.

MONROVIA, *April 2, 1874.*

I am now on the eve of my departure for the United States for a change, and particularly for the sake of my eyes, which continue very weak. I am not certain yet whether I shall leave by the American barque "Liberia," to sail about the first of next month, or by the British steamship "Monrovia," expected in a few days from the South Coast.* Meanwhile, I think it well to send you this communication, which, in either case, shall be forwarded by the way of England.

My health has not allowed me to visit Boporo, as I proposed sometime ago to do; but I have made several visits to Vonswah—the Mohammedan trading settlement, about twelve miles northeast of Monrovia—and there I have met Mandingoes, who go to and fro' between that point and the interior towns: from them I have received regular intelligence.

You will remember that, in the month of January, 1870, I was privileged to open a school for the Episcopal Mission at Totocoreh, ten miles east of Boporo, or about ninety miles northeast of Monrovia, under the supervision of Rev. G. W. Gibson, the rector of Trinity Church, Monrovia. Mr. Winwood Reade, the English African traveler, having availed himself of my invitation, accompanied me on this tour, and was present at the organization of the school. I see that he refers to it in the second volume of his recently published "African Sketch Book." The teacher who went out with me, and of whom Mr. Reade complains, left soon afterwards, and is now a practicing lawyer in one of the Liberian settlements. But the school is still kept up.

The inscrutable Providence, which a few weeks ago removed Bishop Auer, has been, so far as we can judge, a serious drawback. Mr. Gibson was con-

* Prof. Blyden arrived in Liverpool on the 3d and New York on the 20th May. His address is 23 Centre Street, New York.—ED. AF. REPOSITORY.

templating a visit with the Bishop to the Boporo country, to have interviews with the leading chiefs, and to begin, if possible, an extensive work in that country.

Mr. Gibson's view, I believe, is, that any work commenced in that country should, at the outset, present the appearance of earnestness and permanence, so as to inspire the natives with confidence and respect. I trust that the Episcopal Church will see its way clear to carry out his comprehensive plans for that field.

Meanwhile, it is gratifying to know that the Methodists, who were the first to commence operations in that country, more than thirty years ago, are now in a position to resume their work—a work to be extended to Segó and beyond, according to the far-seeing plans of their first missionary, Melville B. Cox, whose brave and thrilling words, when facing the fatal climate to which he was hastening, should be inscribed afresh upon their banners: "Let a thousand fall before Africa be given up." There have been numerous and noble sacrifices of beautiful and saintly lives since that utterance; but the time, I imagine, has not yet arrived to abandon that field.

The Boporo district is a most eligible field for present operations. The war, which has disturbed the country for the last ten years, is now at an end. The old restless leaders on both sides are dead; and the whole region, as far as Musardu, is now accessible to the teacher and preacher.

The prospects for secular development are of the most promising character. The country teems with those resources out of which a commerce is created—fertile plains, rich in agricultural produce—lofty hills, arable to their very tops—a climate and soil suited to the raising of flocks and herds—a population numerous, healthy, and energetic. It is also the highway from the far interior; and caravans constantly visit Boporo to collect the scattered articles of a foreign commerce which find their way from the Coast. And it is a proof of the commercial and agricultural attractions of this region, that large numbers of Mohammedans, belonging to countries two or three hundred miles further back, are settled there.

It has been my lot to travel in various parts of the world, and to enjoy some of the most picturesque scenery, but to my taste there is nothing to surpass the pleasure which one experiences from the natural characteristics of the undulating country in which Boporo is situated. Nowhere within the limits of civilization have I found anything at all like the exhilarating freshness to be derived from the primitive nature with which one comes into contact there.

Some of the hills rise to the dignity and grandeur of mountains—one, especially, of striking prominence overlooking Totocoreh, which the late King Momoru did me the honor of calling MOUNT BLYDEN. The hills are very varied in form—mound, sugar-loaf, and conical-shaped. Those which are not cultivated by the natives are covered with valuable woods, suitable for dyeing and building purposes. In the valleys streams of an exquisite clearness ripple along through pasture grounds; and every here and there are what are called "half towns," where native chiefs and gentlemen spend the

hottest part of the day in dignified languor—a sort of recreation rendered possible by the character of the climate in which life is comparatively easy; where man is never driven by his necessities, where there is a pleasure in mere existence. I have often wondered whether, when civilization comes with its busy and restless activity, producing those feverish anxieties and rivalries now witnessed in other lands, there will be sufficient compensation for the abolition or diminution of the healthy operation of the “great, glad, aboriginal instincts.” Goldsmith says, however—

“But small the bliss that sense alone bestows,
And sensual bliss is all this nation knows;
In florid beauty groves and fields appear,
Man seems the only growth that dwindles here.”

The new King of Boporo, a brother of Momoru, is giving evidence of those commercial and political instincts which achieved the renown of his father, King Boatswain, that able and efficient friend of Liberia in the earliest and darkest period of its existence.

The people of Liberia are convinced that there is not much hope for the country except in internal improvements—the opening of roads and the education of the natives. But the Government is not able to carry on the educational work as fast as the exigency of the case requires. Everybody is now looking to the interior. Some of the old citizens now express regrets that they have spent so much time on the Seaboard engaged in the precarious and profitless enterprise of a Coast trade, and are commencing operations on the St. Paul's.

Professor Freeman, who made several unsuccessful attempts to cultivate the rocky soil around the College, has now procured some land on Stockton Creek, where he has begun farming on a small scale. Not far from him Rev. Mr. Gibson is also carrying on a farm. Every thing is looking interiorward; and it is evident that before long all our institutions will be located in that quarter.

We have been thankful to notice the efforts of Gen. Phelps, of Vermont, to excite an interest in and secure help for us in the making of roads to the interior. The importance of such a movement cannot be overrated.

I think that the feeling is gaining strength, not only in Liberia, which is mission ground, but among the supporters of missions in Christian lands, that much permanent good is not likely to be accomplished until more attention is devoted to teaching the natives the art of making a living.

The political news in Liberia is of little importance. Of course there is some talk about the next Presidency. Ex-President Payne is the popular candidate in Mesurado county. The name of Professor Johnson, of Liberia College, is also mentioned. Professor Johnson is a son of Elijah Johnson, one of the founders of Liberia. For accurate scholarship and versatility of talent, he is the most remarkable character yet produced in Liberia. He was educated in the Alexander High School.

It is gratifying to know that there are some young men in the Republic who give promise of being able to carry on the work of nationality, which

their fathers bravely took upon themselves a quarter of a century ago, almost as a leap in the dark, and in which, considering their antecedent advantages or disadvantages, and their unfavorable surroundings, they still deserve, though they have already largely received, the sympathy of the civilized world.

Believe me, in this great work, faithfully yours,

EDWARD W. BLYDEN.

[FOR THE AFRICAN REPOSITORY.

"THE NEGRO RACE IN THE SOUTH."

Under this head the AFRICAN REPOSITORY for April, 1874, (page 128,) contains the following extract from an Address of General R. A. Pryor: "In 1860 there were 3,953,760 slaves in the Southern States. In 1870 the returns showed a population of 4,880,070 colored citizens."

The difference between the numbers here given, which is 927,000, will be generally understood as showing the increase of the negro race in the ten years from 1860 to 1870, which would be an increase of $23\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. An examination of the census returns and the ratios of increase will not sustain such a conclusion.

I submit the annexed tables, taken from the census of 1870. The total population of the United States shows the following rates of increase since 1800:

	Increase.	Per cent.
1800-1810.....	1,930,398.....	35 $\frac{1}{2}$
1810-1820.....	2,393,941.....	33
1820-1830.....	3,232,178.....	30
1830-1840.....	4,203,433.....	30
1840-1850.....	6,122,123.....	35
1850-1860.....	8,251,745.....	33
1860-1870.....	7,115,050.....	22 $\frac{1}{2}$

During the same decades, the increase of white population only has been as follows:

	Increase.	Per cent.
1800-1810.....	1,561,627.....	35
1810-1820.....	1,940,093.....	33
1820-1830.....	2,735,212.....	35
1830-1840.....	3,658,427.....	30
1840-1850.....	5,337,264.....	28
1850-1860.....	6,369,468.....	32
1860-1870.....	6,666,840.....	24 $\frac{2}{10}$

During the same decades, the colored population has increased as follows:

	Increase.	Per cent.
1800-1810.....	375,871.....	37½
1810-1820.....	393,848.....	29½
1820-1830.....	556,986.....	31½
1830-1840.....	545,006.....	23½
1840-1850.....	765,160.....	26½
1850-1860.....	803,042.....	22¼
1860-1870.....	438,179.....	10

The total colored population of the United States for 1870 was 4,880,000. Of this number 4,659,358 were in the slavery States; 220,642 were in the no-slavery States.

The following table will show the distribution of colored population in the planting States proper in 1860 and in 1870, with the rate of increase during the decade:

	1860.	1870.	Increase:	Per cent.
Alabama.....	437,770	475,510	37,740	8½
Arkansas.....	111,259	122,169	10,910	9¾
Florida.....	62,677	91,689	29,012	46
Georgia.....	545,142	465,698	79,444	17
Louisiana.....	350,373	364,210	12,837	4
Mississippi.....	437,404	444,201	6,797	1½
North Carolina.....	361,522	391,650	30,028	8½
South Carolina.....	412,312	415,814	3,494	0⅞
Tennessee.....	283,019	322,331	39,312	14
Texas.....	182,921	253,475	70,554	38
	<u>3,184,407</u>	<u>3,546,747</u>	<u>362,340</u>	<u>= 11¼</u>

	1860.	1870.	Loss.	Loss.
Kentucky.....	236,167	322,210	13,957	
Missouri.....	118,503	118,071	432	
Virginia.....	548,907	530,831	18,076	
	<u>903,577</u>	<u>871,112</u>	<u>32,465</u>	<u>- 3½</u>
Delaware.....	21,627	22,794	+ 1,167	= 5
Maryland.....	171,181	175,391	+ 4,210	= 2½
District of Columbia..	14,316	43,304	+ 28,988	= 200
Virginia.....	548,907	530,831	- 18,076	
	<u>756,031</u>	<u>772,320</u>	<u>15,299</u>	<u>2 2/3 ct.</u>

These tables teach important results in political economy, and I think them no less important to the friends of African Colonization. They will be of value to those who care to scan them.

JOHN H. JAMES.

URBANA, OHIO, 9th May, 1874.

EDUCATION IN LIBERIA.

We gather from Liberia school returns in 1873 the following facts and figures, which, though not complete, are gratifying indications that the cause of education is receiving attention in the African Republic:

MONTSERRADO COUNTY.

Monrovia.—At the head stands Liberia College, which, including its Preparatory Department, contains 32 students, under the instruction of Messrs. M. H. Freeman and H. R. W. Johnson as Professors, and Mr. A. D. Williams as Principal in the Primary Department.

Trinity Episcopal Church School: Mrs. M. L. White, teacher; 17 male and 35 female pupils; total 52.

Presbyterian Mission School: Mr. A. B. King, teacher; 56 male pupils, of whom 6 are native Africans.

Methodist E. Mission School: Mrs. M. L. Timberlake, teacher; 5 male and 24 female pupils; total 30.

Private school, taught by Miss Antoinette H. Barclay: 6 male and 14 female pupils; total 20.

St. Paul's River District Methodist E. Mission Schools, viz:

Place.	Teacher.	Pupils.
<i>Carysburg</i>	Mr. W. T. Hagins.....	39.
<i>Virginia</i>	Mr. J. Glasgow.....	32.
<i>Sass Town, (Congo)</i>	Miss Mahala Johnson.....	17.
<i>Mills-Burg</i>	Mr. K. Outland.....	40.
<i>Clay-Ashland</i>	Mr. N. E. Dixon.....	35.
<i>Lower Caldwell</i>	Mr. C. R. Simms.....	30.
<i>New Georgia</i>	Mrs. Earley.....	25.

Brewerville School, by American Colonization Society: Mr. Henry Clement, teacher; 34 pupils.

Arthington School, No. 1, by American Colonization Society: Mr. T. B. Lane, teacher; 27 pupils.

Arthington School, No. 2, by American Colonization Society: Mr. Henry Tayloe, teacher; 36 pupils.

Muhlenberg.—Lutheran Mission School: Mr. David Kelly, Jr., teacher; 8 Liberian and 32 native African pupils.

Marshall.—Presbyterian Mission School, Mrs. H. C. Dillon, teacher; 22 Liberian and 12 native African male and 12 Liberian and 6 native African female pupils; total 52.

Methodist E. Mission School: Rev. W. H. Davis, teacher; 7 Liberia male and 2 native African male and 11 female pupils; total 20.

Grass Dale.—Presbyterian Mission School: Rev. J. H. Deputie, teacher; 2 Liberian and 11 native African male and 1 Liberian and 2 native African female pupils; total 16.

Mount Olive.—Methodist E. Mission School: Mr. J. P. Artis, teacher; 4 Liberian and 18 native African male and 4 Liberian female pupils; total 26.

Gazimbrio's Town School, by New York State Colonization Society: Mrs. Z. A. King, teacher; 12 native African male, and 2 Liberian and 1 native African female pupils; total 15.

Gibbee Country School, by New York State Colonization Society: Mrs. S. Waters, teacher; 10 native African male and 10 female pupils; total 20.

Taylor'sville Baptist Mission School: Miss Josephine Early, teacher; 13 native African male and 9 female pupils; total 22.

Robertsport Methodist E. Mission School: Mr. C. Willis Houston, teacher; 61 pupils.

Private School, taught by Mrs. Emma Diggs: 5 male and 2 female pupils; total 7.

Mando.—Presbyterian Mission School: Mr. R. A. M. Deputie, teacher; 10 native African male pupils, all of the Dey tribe.

Jundee Baptist Mission School: Mr. Isaiah Huff, teacher; 70 male pupils.

GRAND BASSA COUNTY.

Vonbrunnsville Baptist Mission School: Mr. Christian Lassen, teacher; 25 native African male and 10 female pupils.

Sauls Town Baptist Mission School: Mr. Enos Reeves, teacher; 3 Liberian male and 4 native African and 2 female pupils; total 9.

Blaymor's Town Baptist Mission School: Mrs. Sarah Oliver, teacher; 9 native pupils.

Grazeicon Baptist Mission School: 9 native pupils.

SINOE COUNTY.

Greenville Methodist E. Mission School: Mrs. S. E. Brown, teacher; 28 male and 32 female pupils; total 60.

Private School, taught by Mrs. Ann Priest: 5 male and 3 female pupils; total 8.

Private School, taught by Mr. W. McDonogh: 7 male and 1 female pupils; total 8.

Private School, taught by Miss Mary E. Parsons: 3 male and 5 female pupils; total 8.

Government School: G. A. Buskins, teacher; 12 male and 8 female pupils; total 20.

Farmersville.—Government School: Mrs. Mary J. Evans, teacher; 32 male and 29 female pupils; total 61.

Lexington.—Government School: Mrs. S. E. Holdman, teacher: 16 male and 18 female pupils; total 34.

Louisiana.—Government School: Mrs. M. A. Montgomery, teacher; 13 male and 11 female pupils; total 24.

Ashmun.—Government School: Mr. James M. Strather, teacher; 9 male and 7 female pupils; total 16.

Little Bonton Methodist E. Mission School: Rev. J. C. Lowrie, teacher; 7 male and 1 female pupils; total 8.

MARYLAND COUNTY.

Cape Palmas.—St. Mark's Episcopal Church School: Mrs. Sarah Simpson, teacher; 46 pupils.

Methodist Mission Seminary: Mr. George S. Wood, teacher; 25 pupils.

Latrobe.—Government School: Mrs. Sarah Gross, teacher; 39 pupils.

Cooper's Academy: private, Mr. Celim Aga, teacher; 13 male pupils.

Episcopal Mission Orphan Asylum: Miss Botts, teacher; 22 female pupils.

Philadelphia.—Government School: Mr. Tubman, teacher; 27 pupils.

Mount Tubman.—Government School: Mr. Brewer, teacher; 40 pupils.

Cavalla.—Hoffman Institute, Episcopal Mission: Miss M. Scott, principal; 17 pupils.

Boarding School, Episcopal Mission, Miss E. Hunt, principal; 50 pupils.

Hoffman.—Boarding-School, Episcopal Mission, Mr. Alonzo Potter, teacher; 46 pupils.

Receipts of the American Colonization Society,

DURING THE MONTH OF MAY, 1874.

VERMONT.		
<i>Burlington</i> —Miss MARY M. FLETCHER, to constitute herself a Life Member, \$30; Mrs. E. W. Buell, \$8; L. Barnes, \$7; Mrs. R. W. Francis, E. W. Chase, A. W. Allen, W. H. Wilkins, H. A. Crombie, W. Greene, Edward Lyman, E. W. Peck, ea. \$5; N. S. Hill, \$2; A. G. Pierce, S. Nichols, ea. \$1; other individuals, \$16.....	\$105 00	
<i>Montpelier</i> —Hon. D. Baldwin, S. Wells, George W. Scott, ea. \$5; Hon. E. P. Walton, J. P. Thurston, ea. \$2; George Sargeant, D. Dewey, ea. \$1.....	21 00	
	126 00	
MASSACHUSETTS.		
<i>Lowell</i> —A. W. Brooks, \$15; S. W. Stickney, Samuel Kidder, ea. \$5; F. F. Battles, \$2; Rev. N. C. Mallory, \$1.....	28 00	
<i>Andover</i> —Prof. J. H. Thayer, \$4; Prof. J. L. Taylor, \$3; Prof. C. M. Mead, \$2; Prof. E. C. Smyth, Prof. E. A. Park, Mrs. Noyes, ea. \$1.....	12 00	
<i>North Andover</i> —Geo. L. Davis	5 00	
	45 00	
NEW YORK.		
<i>New York City</i> —Geo. W. Jewett, \$25; Cash, \$5; Mrs. Chapin, \$1.	31 00	
PENNSYLVANIA.		
<i>Pittsburgh</i> —James Park, Jr., \$150; for the Liberia College,		
Mrs. Harmer Denny, William Thaw, ea. \$50; Hon. Felix R. Brunot, Wm. Semple, ea. \$20; W. G. Johnston, J. P. Hanna, ea. \$10; Thomas C. Lazear, Geo. Bingham, Geo. Singer, William Vankirk, G. A. Berry, R. Datzell, Mrs. Ann G. Lyon, Mrs. John T. Logan, ea. \$5; Rev. E. E. Swift, D. D., \$2.50....	352 50	
<i>Altoona</i> —Rev. A. M. Wallace, J. H. Dysart, ea. \$5; Wm. Murray, \$1.....	11 00	
	363 50	
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.		
<i>Washington</i> —Miscellaneous.....	430 08	
FOR REPOSITORY.		
MAINE— <i>Saco</i> —Mrs. C. C. Sawyer, to May 1, 1875, \$1; N. Stearns, to April 1, 1874, \$1.....	2 00	
CONNECTICUT— <i>Meriden</i> —C. P. Champion, to April 1, 1875.....	1 00	
PENNSYLVANIA— <i>Philadelphia</i> —George M. Hickling, to Oct. 1, 1875.....	2 00	
ILLINOIS— <i>Springfield</i> —Hon. Geo. H. Harlow, Secretary of State, for sundry volumes.....	16 00	
Repository	21 00	
Donations.....	415 50	
Liberia College.....	150 00	
Miscellaneous.....	-430 08	
Total.....	\$1,016 58	

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